

Renton Library Advisory Board



Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall, 7th floor

Council Conference Room

April 20, 2016 ~ 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Erica Richey called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

In Attendance

Members: Laurie Beden, Lynne King, Catherine Ploue-Smith, Erica Richey, Kim Unti

City Staff: Ed VanValey, Kelly Beymer, Margie Beitner

KCLS Staff: Amy Egler, John Sheller

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Laurie Beden made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Catherine Ploue-Smith seconded. All were in favor, motion carried, agenda approved.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laurie Beden made a motion to approve the March 2016 minutes with one spelling correction, Catherine Ploue-Smith seconded. *(Corrected the spelling on the first name for KCLS Design Coordinator, Dri Ralph.)* All were in favor, motion carried, minutes approved.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Kim Unti mentioned that she has received inquiries from citizens asking why KCLS does not have hours posted somewhere before you get to the door of the Library; especially for the downtown Library in Liberty Park. It was suggested that KCLS look into the possibility of signage being placed on the building that can be read from the parking lot area. John Sheller and Amy Egler indicated they would check into possible signage.

VI. CITY REPORT / Kelly Beymer

Kelly Beymer informed the group that Cailín Hunsaker was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to prior commitments and that her introduction would be rescheduled for a future date. Kelly introduced Ed VanValey, Deputy Chief of Police. She stated that Ed has raised the bar within the Police Department; he provides amazing customer service! Ed VanValey spoke to the group about the increase in undesirable behavior both in downtown Renton and surrounding areas. He gave a brief overview of noticeable patterns in recent Police investigations and response to 911 calls. The Deputy Chief of Police noted that heroin drug use seems to be on the rise – larger quantities are being produced and it is easier to obtain by drug addicts. Opium is another drug that is more readily available to users. The Police are

seeing more needles; he cautioned staff to be careful and use the proper methods to discard needles. He also described the type of behaviors that might indicate a library or park patron may be under the influence of these types of drugs: zombie-like behavior; personal hygiene is really bad; when the person is really addicted they may even soil themselves. Ed VanValey also mentioned that the Police have seen an increase in vandalism in parking lots. It is common in areas where they see more drug use to also notice an increase in vandalism because theft is an easy way to make money to support the drug habit. With cameras in a lot of areas it is easier to prosecute and identify these individuals.

Kelly Beymer advised that it is important to call 911 to report any unusual behavior or crimes. The Police are there to help; not to interfere with Library business. The Deputy Police Chief also added that by calling 911 and reporting it helps them identify problem areas and determine where specific behavior patterns are developing.

John Sheller noted that it is KCLS policy to deal with behavior that is disruptive or affects library use. This includes Health & Welfare checks – Library staff will talk to patrons regarding getting cleaned-up; that they need to be odor clear and that they do not affect others space. The KCLS staff is instructed to call 911 if there are any health issues.

The group agreed there seems to be a noticeable increase in activity on the bridge as far as smoking and pot smoking. Laurie Beden asked if there are cameras for downtown library. John Sheller indicated there are cameras on both sides of the bridge.

Kelly Beymer commented that if there is questionable or repetitive unwanted behavior the Police can respond. Parks Maintenance staff has worked with Police regarding activity under the bridge – they have removed some tables and benches from areas and took out overgrown vegetation to help eliminate problem areas. Laurie Beden inquired as to how often the Parks staff clean areas around the library. Kelly noted that parks are cleaned up every day in the morning and starting in June a staff person will be dedicated to Liberty Park. It was also noted that it is not against the law to sleep on a bench if there is no drug paraphernalia, etc. Ed VanValey said the Police are glad to walk through and check on the situation if reported, and make a determination if there is any reason to be concerned.

John Sheller added that those who misuse property (sleep on benches, etc.) know the laws and know what they can get away with. Sometimes informal contact with patrons and suggesting referrals for counseling is helpful.

Ed VanValey remarked on the Highlands area. He indicated they are watching this area closely and have already seized 15 houses for drugs with over one Million in cash recovered. Lynne King asked if they plan on having bike patrols for this area. Ed indicated the Police will most likely have some bike patrol – their objective is to focus on the businesses in the area and be visible; they want to be a presence and keep public and library staff informed. Education is as important as fighting crime.

Erica Richey inquired as to what a person should do if they find a needle? Depending on where it is found a person could contact Library staff – they have Sharps disposal containers to properly dispose of needles. Or if in the parks, a person could call 911 or the Parks Administration office at 425-430-6600. Fire Department personnel also have the proper equipment to dispose of needles.

Ed VanValey thanked the board for giving him the opportunity to speak and told them to feel free to call him with any questions or concerns at 425-430-7567 or email him (Evanvaley@rentonwa.gov).

VII. KCLS REPORT/John Sheller

John Sheller informed the board that he has transitioned into a new position with KCLS in Issaquah (*government relations*). He introduced Amy Egger as the new Cluster Manager who will be attending RLAB meetings. Amy has had different experience in other communities including the South End, New Castle, Mercer Island and Bellevue. Amy Egger noted that she is enjoying the new position and still learning aspects of the new location.

John Sheller gave some highlights from the March 26, “soft” opening of the Highlands Library. The opening was informal and the number attending was probably in the hundreds which was very manageable. The artwork in the Library is stunning. There were some issues with the elevator not working because the State of Washington Labor & Industries inspection was not completed in time and also the parking issues.

Kim Unti noted that the Story Room (*with about 60 people in room*) was delightful, but the parking was horrendous. People were parking on both sides of drive blocking the entrance. John Sheller also mentioned concerns about the Fire Lane as well. Amy Egger indicated that they are currently talking about getting “No Parking” signs to eliminate some of the problems.

Discussion followed on parking structure and possible solutions. Kelly Beymer suggested that one option, once the parking garage is fully operational, may be to re-stripe areas to accommodate larger vehicles. John Sheller also noted that there was discussion that they might want to close the entrance from 10th then put signage on the fence; public would come in off 10th (not Harrington). It was suggested that KCLS post tips for parking on their website.

John Sheller would like to see communication from City as to upcoming changes with construction issues. Amy Egger added that it would be nice to get a schematic from the City to put up for public viewing. She indicated that they are going through a transition period with Library patrons – there is a “venting” period now with complaints about trash and the messy surroundings; why KCLS isn’t cleaning it up. It would be good to show upcoming changes and plans to help the public understand the transition.

Erica Richey noted that the collection of books at the new Highlands Library is fabulous and the building is much nicer.

Amy Egglar will be in the Downtown Library most of the time, but will be moving around. It will take some time for Amy to get established in her new position as the Cluster has 96 staff members so it is challenging to meet everyone and get acquainted.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on new board members and the review of RLAB ByLaws will be pushed to a future meeting – possibly June 15. The board may schedule a special meeting to discuss ByLaws and possibility of adding new members or youth member since there is limited time during normal board meetings. A short discussion followed on what is required for a quorum; whether the number of board members needs to be even or odd and whether or not a youth member can vote.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. INFORMATION

No additional information provided.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Lynne King made a motion to adjourn the April meeting. Laurie Beden seconded. All were in favor, motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Signature

<u>Next Meetings:</u>	
	May 18, 2016 Renton Library 100 Mill Avenue South, Renton WA King Parker Room
June 15, 2016 Renton City Hall Council Conference Room 7 th floor	
	